

Weekly Video Update, July 11 , 2022

Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

1. The total number of Covid cases for this past week according to our MAVEN data was 23, up from last week's 21. We had a positivity rating over the last 14 days of 6.99% up from 7.05% of last week. Plymouth County is at 5.48%, up from last week's 4.86%. State wide the positivity rate yesterday for the past 7 days was 7.87% up from the previous week of 6.22%. Statewide there are 43 individuals in ICU up from 43 of last week. 12 patients are intubated, up from 10 of last week. So, numbers are up slightly across the board this week. According to the Boston Globe this morning two new variants of the Omicron strain, BA.4 and BA.5 are more adept at avoiding the antibodies in our bodies from the vaccines or that we get after having the virus. These two variants make up 35% of the cases in the US. Experts still expect numbers to decline, but not as quickly as hoped. This is borne out by the numbers we are seeing this week.

We are not done with COVID yet. Although it is only one week, the numbers are trending up. There is a new Omicron variant, BA-2 that is now the dominant strain in the US. At this point, being vaccinated is a much better defense then not being vaccinated, so please, if you have not yet been vaccinated and can receive the vaccine, we urge you to do so. Vaccinations and booster are widely available. Go to mass.gov for details.

2. Water update. Tack Factory Pond was at -13.5" this week down from last week's measurement of -6.5". Average daily demand was at 1.623 MGD up from the 1.563 MGD from last week's usage. Manganese measured at the WTP is still high and is causing discolored water to go through the plant and into the system. As the temperatures rise, so will the Manganese levels in the water. If you have brown water, please call the water department or email brownwater@scituatema.gov. Rainfall over the last 7 days was .05" measured at the Plant.

The Trac Vac System in the bottom of sedimentation basin 2 is working again. We have made a temporary fix while we wait for new solenoids to be delivered and installed. We are still in a full outdoor water ban. In addition to issues at the plant, we are still experiencing issues in the supply chain with receiving Potassium Hydroxide (KOH) which is a chemical necessary to raise the PH of the water. This could impact our ability to produce water from our wells. We will continue to monitor this while looking into using alternative chemicals that are currently more readily available. The Total water ban is still in place. This is not related to our water supply but to issues at the treatment plant related to our making water.

Celco will be in this week to installing a new water main on Old Driftway. That work will commence tomorrow. That road will be paved as part of the Drew project at the MBTA parking lot and the water main is being replaced prior to the paving.

Paving company should be coming in the next week or so. We will be paving Old Oaken Bucket and Brook St.

3. There will an update on the water treatment plant project Wednesday night at 7:00 pm. Via zoom. The link is available on the town web site.
4. A reminder as we get into the summer from our sewer department-Flushable wipes are NOT flushable. They get caught in pumps and machinery and cause blockages in the system.
5. With the rise in inflation, the cost of gas groceries and everyday items has soared. If you are in need or know someone in need, both Scituate Community Christmas and the Scituate Food Pantry are available to help those in need. SCC is a year-round organization dedicated to helping those in need, not just at the holiday. SCC can be reached at 781-545-7198 and the Food Pantry, which operates out of the old gates school can be reached at 782-545-5827. We are very fortunate to have such wonderful organizations available to help those in need in Scituate.
6. We wanted to give everyone notice that we are going to experience astronomical high tides with a Wednesday full moon. Tides will be astronomically high tonight through Monday of next week. The high tides will start tonight just before 10pm and advance just under an hour each day. Please be aware of parking in the Mill Wharf & Cole Parkway lots later in the evening during these high tides.
7. Cohasset has started utility work will on Route 3A between Stop and Shop and Pond Street and continuing until August 1st. Between the hours of 8am and 3pm southbound traffic will be detoured off of Route 3A to Upper King Street. Northbound traffic will be shifted into the southbound lanes but will not be detoured off of Route 3A. If you take Route 3A in the morning, be prepared for delays.

Tony Vegnani, Select Board Chair

Select Board meeting is Tuesday, July 12th at 6:30 PM. Kathy Gardner, Town Clerk is going to go over early voting procedures

On Wednesday, there is a Water Treatment Plant Update meeting via zoom and the link can be found on the town website.

The Library concert series will be held this Wednesday evening.

Thursday is the Antique Car show in Cole Parkway.

Mr. Vegnani recognized some scholastic athletes. Keegan Sullivan and Sam Benning were both recognized for their academic and athletic performance.